

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XV

Number 23

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THE SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (Tone 1)
Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (Tone 1)

Saturday, 15 February (2 February o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 16 February (3 February o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
Trapeza (coffee hour)

Meatfare Saturday: Saturday of Souls

Friday, 21 February (8 February o.s.)

6:00 PM Ninth Hour and Vespers;
Confessions

Saturday, 22 February (9 February o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
General Pannykhida

MEATFARE SUNDAY (Tone 2)

Saturday, 22 February (9 February o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 23 February (10 February o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
Trapeza (coffee hour)

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Su	The Sunday of the Prodigal Son	
	<i>1st Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Matt. §116 [28:16-20]	
	1 Cor. §135 (6:12-20)	Luke §79 (15:11-32)
35TH WEEK after PENTECOST (Meatfare Week)		
M	1 John §71 (2:18-3:10a)	Mark §49 (11:1-11)
Tu	1 John §72 (3:10b-20)	Mark §64 (14:10-42)
W	1 John §73 (3:21-4:6)	Mark §65 (14:43-15:1)
Th	1 John §74 (4:20-5:21)	Mark §66 (15:1-1-15)
F	2 John §75 (1:1-13)	Mark §68 (15:22, 25, 33-41)
Sa	Meatfare Saturday: Saturday of Souls	
	1 Cor. §146 (10:23-28)	Luke §105 (21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36)
	1 Thess. §270 (4:13-17)	John §16 (5:24-30)
Su	Meatfare Sunday: The Sunday of the Last Judgment	
	<i>Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i>	
	1 Cor. §140 (8:8-9:2)	Matt. §106 (25:31-46)

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

The second pre-lenten week of the Triodion, the week beginning with the Sunday of the Prodigal Son and ending with Meatfare Sunday, is called the Week of 'Carnival' or 'Meatfare.' It is so termed because it is the last week that we eat meat and meat products before Pascha. The usual fast is kept on Wednesday and Friday. Otherwise there is no special fasting.

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Namedays – 14th (St Bridget of Ireland): Patricia Brigid Barker.

Birthdays – 14th: Peter Mladineo.

THIS WEEK

Birthdays – 20th: Daniel Palko.

THE REST OF FEBRUARY

Namedays – 25th (St Alexis of Moscow): Alexei Darenkov.

Birthdays – 24th: Frank Fitzgerald; 26th: Elena Kostin; 27th: Nadezhda Sexton; 28th: Seraphima Morrow.

MARCH

Namedays – 2nd (Great-Martyr Theodore the Tyro): Theodore Darenkov; 13th (St John Cassian): Cassian O'Beirne; 26th (St Larisa): Larisa Kiyashko Brav; 30th (St Patrick of Ireland): William Patrick Brien.

Birthdays – 13th: Sarah Brangwynne; 21st: Zydrune Ann Mladineo; 31st: Deacon Steven Barker.

Baptism Anniversaries – 8th: Patricia Brigid Barker (2009).

Wedding Anniversaries – 16th: Father David & Matushka Faith Straut (1979).

Fallen Asleep in the Lord – 28th: Madeleine & Margaret Hotz.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

If your home has not yet been blessed this year, please arrange a time *in the next two weeks* with Father when he can come to bless it *before* the Great Fast begins.

The Feast of the Meeting is celebrated for a variable number of days, from a single day to a full eight days, depending on when the Great Fast begins. This year the Feast lasts for seven days, the Apodosis of the Feast falling on Friday, 21 February, n.s. The troparion and kontakion of the Meeting are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the days of the festal period. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast (*'Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos ...'*) can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast (*'Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth ...'*) can be sung instead of the usual thanksgiving troparion after each meal. It would also be most appropriate to sing the troparion and kontakion of the Feast at the end of our morning and evening prayers at home.

The Blessing of Candles was performed on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. This custom undoubtedly comes from the reference to Christ "the Light to enlighten the Gentiles" in the Song of St Symeon first uttered at the time of the Saviour's Presentation in the Temple. Blessed Candles are brought home by the Faithful and kept with reverence in the Icon Corner. They are lit as a supplication to Christ for help or protection, as during a storm or in time of family dissension.

The Saturday of Souls (or Soul Saturday) is a day set aside for commemoration of the departed within the Orthodox Christian liturgical year. Saturday is a traditional day for prayer for the dead, because Christ lay dead in the Tomb on Saturday. There are several Soul Saturdays throughout the year:

- The Saturday of Meatfare Week, the second Saturday before Great Lent begins, the day before the Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare Sunday)
- The second Saturday of Great Lent
- The third Saturday of Great Lent
- The fourth Saturday of Great Lent
- *Radonitsa* (Tuesday after Thomas Sunday)
- The Saturday before Pentecost
- Demetrius Saturday (the Saturday before the feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius: 26 October / 8 November).

The Divine Services on these days have special hymns added to them to commemorate the departed. There is normally a Pannykhida (Memorial Service) served either after the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning, or after Vespers on Friday evening, for which *kolyva* (a dish made of sweetened boiled wheat) is prepared and placed

in front of the cross before which the Pannykhida is served. After the service, the priest blesses the *kolyva* and it is then eaten as a memorial by all present.

This Saturday is the most important of the Soul Saturdays of the year. Ninth Hour and Vespers will be served at 6 o'clock on Friday evening, with an opportunity for Confession afterwards. On Saturday morning, the Liturgy will be served at 9:30, followed by a General Pannykhida (Memorial Service). The names of the Departed in all the Commemoration Books kept at the church will be commemorated at these services. If you need to update your books, please take this opportunity to do so.

If anyone is able to provide a donation of *kolyva* (sweetened boiled wheat) for this Soul Saturday, please let Father know.

Only the names of Orthodox Christians are permitted to be commemorated at Memorial Services and at the Proskomedie. If you have included Non-Orthodox in your Commemoration Book or Commemoration Lists, please clearly indicate which persons named, if any, are Non-Orthodox.

There will be a blessing of Icons at St Elizabeth's at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on the First Sunday of Great Lent: the Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. Because this day is a celebration of the victory of the Orthodox Faith over the heresy of Iconoclasm, it is a very appropriate day for the sanctification of icons. If you have icons at home that have not yet been blessed, please bring them to church as soon as possible so that they can be placed in the altar to begin the process of sanctification that will be complete after the prayers of blessing on the First Sunday of the Fast.

St Elizabeth's Annual Meeting will be held on the second Sunday of March. The Annual Meeting will replace the usual March Parish Council Meeting. Year-in-review reports for the past year are to be presented by the Rector, Church Warden, Treasurer, Auditing Committee, and Building Committee. Planning for the current year will also take place. Parishioner concerns will be heard, and Parish Council members for the coming year elected. All voting members of the Parish are asked to attend.

We have a few individuals and families who regularly attend services at St Elizabeth's, and even confess and commune, but have not yet sought to become formal members of the Parish. If you are one of these and would like to be a formal member of the Parish, please speak to Fr David about this.